RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

APRIL, 1877.

FIELD LANE:*

ITS PEOPLE—ITS DWELLINGS—ITS DITCH—ITS SCHOOLS.

In the western gallery of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, is a large and unique collection of 1,100 pictures, all the graphic production of George Cruikshank, Esq.—a collection as remarkable for grotesque effect as for characteristic force. In a prominent position, in the centre of this group, is the illustration we use, by the kind permission of the artist, as a frontispiece to the present number. Highly wrought as this illustration may by some be considered, who perhaps may look upon it simply as a caricature, it is but a fair representation of what we have again and again seen in the very rooms here depicted. Yea, the scene here is order, decency, and decorum, all combined, when compared with scenes that have been witnessed in the same rooms on other occasions.

We have no particular wish to rake up old memories, and certainly no desire, in any way, to draw fancy pictures that exist only in the imagination; but the pooh-poohs of those, in the educational world, who have entered on other men's labours, and not knowing the character of those labours are inclined to ignore them—on the other hand, there are those who seem inclined to upbraid because the rags, the filth, the squalor of other days are

* Field Lane *proper* was a badly-paved passage running northward from the foot of Holborn Hill, described by Stow as a filthy alley inhabited by a disreputable class of people. This passage widened into a street broad enough for a cart to pass, and was there called Saffron Hill. The lower part of nearly every house in Field Lane proper was a shop for the sale of silk handkerchiefs that had been pilfered from the pockets of their rightful owners. Field Lane, *general*, was a large district surrounding Field Lane proper, and in which district the Field Lane Ragged School has up to this date carried on its operations.

not so fully reproduced in these—seem to render it desirable, if not imperative, to enlighten their apparent darkness as to the nature of the work done by Ragged Schools. And we do so, on the principle, to reverse the old adage, that "If knowledge be bliss, 'tis folly to be ignorant."

By the goodness of a gracious God many of the pioneers of the Ragged School movement are still living, and a few of them are still actively engaged in cultivating similar work-fields, and can, if needful, be brought into court to bear witness to our statements. Four of these living witnesses are sketched by the artist in our frontispiece. In the room on the right, among the girls, stands Mr. Provan, the superintendent of the school, and the city missionary of the district. With him were two lady helpers; one to the left was Miss Simmons, the other Miss Smith, who became Mrs. Provan. In the other room is seated Mr. Starey, the treasurer of the school, who is aided by the then secretary, Mr. Macdonald. These, with the exception of the last-named, in this year of grace 1877 are still living and active workers.

The youthful figures so grotesquely sketched by the clever artist were as grotesque in their habits, manners, and dress as here portrayed. It was simply natural for them to be so. Their parents were the lowest type of the human family in Britain, what else but children of the lowest type could be their offspring? To show that such was the case we will allow those to speak who knew the facts.

Charles Dickens's Evidence.

"I found my first Ragged School in an obscure place called West Street, Saffron Hill, pitifully struggling for life under every disadvantage. It had no means, it had no suitable rooms, it derived no power or protection from being recognised by any authority; it attracted within its wretched walls a fluctuating swarm of faces—young in years, but youthful in nothing else—that scowled Hope out of countenance. It was held in a low-roofed den, in a sickening atmosphere, in the midst of taint, and dirt, and pestilence; with all the deadly sins let loose, howling and shrieking at the doors. Zeal did not supply the place of method and training; the teachers knew little of their office; the pupils, with an evil sharpness, found them out, got the better of them, derided them, made blasphemous answers to scriptural questions, sang, fought, danced, robbed each other—seemed possessed by

legions of devils. The place was stormed and carried, over and over again; the lights were blown out, the books strewn in the gutters, and the female scholars carried off triumphantly to their old wickedness."

Chambers's Evidence.

In No. 75 of *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal*, for Saturday, June 7th, 1845, we read:—

"'A Ragged School,' quoth the reader. 'Pray, what kind of school is that?' A few words will suffice to answer this inquiry. A 'Ragged School' is a Sunday School established by private benevolence in a city district of the meanest kind, where every house is worn-out and crazy, and almost every tenant a beggar, or, perhaps, something worse. A school, moreover, in which no children are to be found who would be admitted into any other school; for ragged, diseased, and crime-worn, their very appearance would scare away the children of well-conducted parents; and hence, if they were not educated there, they would receive no education at all. Children of thieves, coiners, burglars, and other outcasts of society.

"The Smithfield 'Ragged School' is situate at 65, West Street, a locality where vice and fever hold fearful sway. To open it in any other neighbourhood would be to defeat the object of the projectors. The very habiliments of the boys, so patched that the character of the original texture could scarcely be gleaned, would almost be sufficient to preclude their ingress to a more respectable neighbourhood, and make them slink back abashed into their loathsome dens. It follows, that the object of the promoters of the Ragged Schools—the in-gathering of the outcasts—requires that it should be held amidst the homes of these outcasts. The house has that battered, worn aspect, which speaks of dissolute idleness, the windows are dark and dingy, and the street too narrow to admit a current of fresh air; and it needed, on the rainy day of March in which it was visited, but a slightly active imagination to call up visions of the robberies and murders which have been planned in it, and of which it has been the scene.

"The entrance to the school was dark; there being no windows to illuminate the rickety staircase, we stumbled into the school-room on the first-floor before we were aware. On entering, the

eye was greeted by a spectacle to which, from its mingled humour and pathos, the pencil of Hogarth could have alone done justice. We found a group of from 40 to 50 girls in one room, and about 60 boys in another; the girls, although the offspring of thieves, quiet, winning, and maidenly; but the boys full of grimace and antics, and, by jest and cunning glances, evincing that they thought the idea of attending school fine fun. Foremost amongst them was a boy apparently aged 17, but as self-collected as a man of 40, of enormous head, and with a physiognomy in which cunning and wit were equally blended, whose mastery over the other boys was attested by their all addressing him as 'Captain.' The boys had their wan, vice-worn faces as clean as could be expected, and their rags seemed furbished up for the occasion; whilst their ready repartee, and striking original remarks, and the electric light of the eye, when some peculiar practical joke was perpetrated, evinced that intellect was there, however uncultivated or misused. Unless we are greatly self-deceived, we beheld in this unpromising assemblage as good a show of heads as we have ever seen in any other Sunday school, and the remark is justified by what we learned with respect to the shrewdness generally evinced by these children. The predominant temperament was the sanguine, a constitution which usually indicates great love for animal exercise; and, during the time we were present, they appeared as if they could not sit quiet one moment—hands, feet, head, nay, the very trunk itself, seemed perpetually struggling to do something, and that something generally being found in sheer mischief."

Mr. Tomkins's Statement (a Missionary).

"Visited with two friends in the night time the arches near the school, and found 17 wretched homeless and friendless creatures huddled together, having crawled thither, being unable to procure any other lodging-place. They were invited, and came to the school the next morning, when bread was given them, and subsequent instruction. Lord Ashley hearing of it, with his accustomed promptness and philanthropy, visited this scene of wretchedness at midnight, and found a large number of these poor creatures, some of whom were sent into the Westminster Juvenile

Refuge, and similar institutions, until an attic in the neighbouring court was taken, into which eight were admitted, who were exceedingly grateful, though they had nought but the bare boards to rest their wearied limbs upon. Friends were made acquainted with these facts, and they provided bread, clothing, and bedding. Of 50 of these poor creatures 33 had lost both parents, 14 had only one parent, and 3 only had both parents living; 23 had no shirt, 16 no shoes, and clothes of all tattered and filthy. Some had not slept in a bed for five weeks, others for five months."

MR. R. W. VANDERKISTE,

in his "Notes and Narratives of a Six Years' Mission," says of this unenviable locality, that "a large portion of this district was called 'Jack Ketch's Warren,' from the fact of the number of persons who were hanged at Newgate from the courts and alleys, especially at the period when £1 notes were in circulation, and forgeries so common. The disturbances which here occurred were of so desperate a character, that from forty to fifty constables would be marched down with cutlasses, it being frequently impossible for officers to act in less numbers, or unarmed." Mr. Vanderkiste gives a graphic description of one of these disturbances. "An old Bow Street officer has detailed strange and terrible scenes to me. One I will give as nearly as possible in his own words.

THE BOW STREET OFFICER'S ACCOUNT.—'One of my mates come to me, as near as I can guess it might be two o'clock in the afternoon. Says he, "P——, you must come up to the office directly." It was in Hatton Garden then, sir, close by. "What for?" says I. "Oh!" says he, "there's the Irish murdering one another on Saffron Hill, the place is blocked up with the mobs." So I takes my staff, and my cutlash, and my pistols, and away I went up to the office. It wasn't a minute's walk scarce, you know. Well, sir, there they was, breaking one another's limbs on Saffron Hill, hundreds of Irish, with great sticks and pokers; ever so many had been taken off to the hospitals wounded. They were so spiteful, the shopkeepers had put up their shutters, and the place was full of Irish, cutting and slashing like mad, and coming from all parts, taking sides and fighting one against another. Well, sir, there was only six of us, and we found we must turn out. "My lads," said the head constable—and he didn't like it at all,

he didn't—says he, "This is a queer job, but go we must!" Well, sir, away we went, but it warn't no use at all; the mob didn't mind our cutlasses a bit. Great big fellows come up to us with their pokers, and we warn't in no pleasant situation in no respect. Well, I saw there'd be murder very shortly, and suddenly a thought struck me, and away I went round the corner—maybe you knows the shop; it was a shop where they sold almost everything then. Well, I knocked, but they were afraid to open the door. Says I, "It's me, Mrs. ——, and do let me in." So they let me in. Says I, "Let me have some red paint of some sort immediately." So they gave me something, I don't know what it was. So I took out my pistols and put in a charge of powder, then some paper, then I wetted a lot of this paint and put it in, and some paper loose over it, and off I went. Well, there was my mates hemmed in, but no lives lost, thank God; they was fighting away. Well, a great chap come up to me with a poker a fighting with, so I outs with a pistol, and says I, "Stand back!" and presents it at him. Well, he didn't stand back, so I fired at him. Well, sir, you may depend on it (I shall never forget it) the force of the powder and wadding knocked him right off his legs. It caught him in the forehead, and the red paint made his face look just as if it was all covered with blood. They made sure he was a dead man, and some carried him off to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the mob got frightened at us and dispersed. They didn't know whose turn might come next. Well, sir, when they came to examine my man at the hospital, and washed his face, it set 'em a wondering, for they found there wasn't no wound at all. The man was partly stunned, and soon walked home. The Irish were pleased, and the housekeepers made us a handsome present, and I was told about that red-paint job a long while afterwards, you may depend on it, sir.'"

Mr. Provan's District.

West Street formed a portion of it, and when its demolition was decided upon some excitement prevailed, in consequence of the notoriety attached to two of the houses—Nos. 2 and 3—which before taken down were thrown open for the inspection of the curious. Thousands of persons visited them, from all ranks and stations in society, including a royal duke. The surprise was

that such a place could have existed within the bounds of the City of London, used as they had been for the vilest of purposes. They had stood for more than 150 years; were first built by the chief of a tribe of gipsies, under the pretence of a tavern called the Red Lion, but for the more direct purpose of concealing stolen goods and harbouring thieves. The buildings behind were stables, where the fleetest horses were kept in constant readiness for pursuit or flight. From all accounts it appears that these houses have ever been the resort of the most notorious and abandoned individuals of the metropolis, among whom stand prominently Jonathan Wild, Jack Sheppard, Jerry Abershaw, and Dick Turpin.

Many are the strange incidents said to have taken place within these walls, situated by the side of the Fleet Ditch, the rapid current of which could at once sweep into the Thames what might be thrown in; their dark closets, trap-doors, sliding panels, and means of escape—they were among the most secure erections for murder and robbery. In the shop No. 3 were two trap-doors in the floor—one for the concealment of property, the other for a means of escape in case the felon should be pursued. His method of escape was by lifting a covering of wood three feet square and dropping into the cellar below; and then, by putting a plank, always ready, across the Fleet Ditch,* and taking it over after him, he was at once in Black Boy Alley, and so cut off pursuit. In the basement of these houses were the remains of a furnace used by coiners, and in another part a still for the production of exciseable spirits.

* There is a school, bearing the singular cognomen of Fleet Ditch Ragged School, situated in Lester Place, Little Saffron Hill. Although this school has been in full and constant operation for more than thirty years, it has only had one teacher, and she still conducts it. The vicissitudes of this teacher have varied as maid, wife, and widow; yet through all she has most usefully persevered in her loved employ. The name Fleet Ditch was attached to this school from the circumstance that only a good thick wall separates the school from the ditch. The widow, Mrs. Parlebeam, does not conduct what in these days is technically called an "efficient" school. She has, however, been an efficient, laborious, persevering, and painstaking teacher; she has done her part in raising the moral tone of this painfully notorious neighbourhood. She does not think her work is quite finished; and therefore, though with lessened vigour, yet with increasing experience in the management and education of her charge, she still perseveres. This school is under the auspices of Mr. J. G. Gent, who makes himself responsible for its good management, as well as for all its liabilities.

The most extraordinary and ingenious part of the premises was the means of escape. If a thief once got into the house it seemed almost an impossibility for his pursuers to take him, in consequence of the various outlets and communications. There was scarcely a chance for the most active officer to take him, if he could get a few yards in advance of him. There were four ways of escape, with great peculiarity of staircase—the pursuer and the pursued might be only a few feet apart, yet the one is found to escape by the roof, while the other finds himself again in the room he had just left—the result of a pivoted panel. A more desirable place for murder, robbery, concealment, and escape could scarcely have been devised.

Mr. STAREY, the Treasurer,

has a tale to tell.

"In the year 1842 I was led to visit the Field Lane Sabbath School, then lately commenced, where I witnessed a scene so foreign to anything I had ever before experienced or heard of, that it made an impression on my mind never to be effaced. On opening the door of the school, then held up a miserable court in Saffron Hill, a motley group of half-clad youths rushed up the rickety staircase into a small apartment, some ten feet square, and commenced leaping upon and overturning the forms which stood in their way; others showed their daring agility by descending from the first-floor window into the yard beneath, whilst the remainder evinced their love of fun and mischief by blowing out the lights, and giving ever and anon a specimen of their vocal talents, by a shouting chorus of some low and popular song; when, however, some order was obtained, and the two teachers present endeavoured to impart instruction with candle in hand, they were obliged to keep on their hats for protection from the rotten vegetables and animal refuse which the rebels without were continually throwing through the broken windows. Such scenes lasted more or less for several months, until the following circumstance brought matters to a crisis. The school at this time was open on Tuesday evenings for females, and Thursday for males. One Tuesday evening, being at the school prior to the arrival of the superintendent, I was engaged in admitting the young women and girls, when I was surprised by a woman coming hastily into the passage of the house, and beckoning me to close the door.

As soon as she recovered her breath, she informed me that she had overheard a number of young men state that they intended coming to the school that evening to have a *lark*, and if the teacher interfered, they would 'rip him up.' One having attempted on a previous occasion to *stab the superintendent*, the threat was deemed no vain one. Ere, however, she had finished her tale, the door was surrounded by the men, who, on its being opened, civilly asked to be admitted, but the unfairness to the females was pointed out, as it would deprive them of their usual night of instruction: but arguments were of no avail; therefore the door was closed and bolted, and I ascended to the schoolroom on the first floor, which was filled with women and children. I had, however, scarcely entered, when a loud crash, and a general rush up the dilapidated stairs, gave note of their triumph, and the room was crammed with the denizens of the neighbouring lane. Standing in the centre, I requested the men peaceably to retire. A few complied, but the majority resolutely refused. An appeal was then made to the females to give up the evening, and allow the men to stop, but with no better success. Fearing the consequences, I determined to send the children away; and whilst so engaged, at a given signal the lights were extinguished, the windows smashed, the forms and tables broken to pieces, and a general rush took place to the stairs, with the movable articles of the room. Here the screaming, swearing, and uproar, as they fell pell-mell over one another, was tremendous. At this time the landlord lay in an adjoining room in a dying state, and his wife and two young children, the only other inmates, supplied fresh lights, but which were blown out immediately afterwards. After considerable difficulty the house was cleared, but not before the woman was nearly stripped to the back by the rough usage she received. Three policemen now arrived, having heard of the 'row,' the scampering in the court giving signal of their approach. One stated, on inquiry, that 'they dared not come singly, *so bad was the locality.*'"

The fearful state of men and places, as already described, has existed in our own times, but that these evils have been handed down to us by a preceding generation is clear, for

DAVID HUGHSON, LL.D.,

in his "London," a work of eight octavo volumes, states that Chick Lane (West Street) eighty years ago was an inconvenient

place. On the north side was a mass of tenements, fearful to approach, called Black Boy Alley, which in the reign of George II. was a terror to the whole city. The method pursued by the inhabitants, who were called "The Black Boy Alley Gang," was to entice the unwary by means of prostitutes, then gag them, so that they should not give the alarm; after which it was the practice of these nefarious wretches to drag their victims to one of their depositories, and having robbed and murdered them, to throw the dead bodies down into the ditch. Their atrocity, however, became so notorious, that Government pursued the offenders so effectually, that no less than *nineteen were executed at one time*. Hogarth has depicted one of these diabolical scenes in his prints of the Industrious and Idle Apprentices, where the idle apprentice is betrayed by his companions to the officer of justice.

Such were the *people*, and such was the *locality*, and such were the *houses* in the midst of which the Field Lane Ragged School took its rise. It was this school that first adopted the trite and popular designation "Ragged." The school was first started by hiring a room on Sunday, and paying for it two shillings for each time it was used. This room was in Caroline Court, Saffron Hill, and was first used on the first Sunday in November, 1841. When it was agreed to hire the room, there was a group of fellows playing at cards in the court, and they were told of the intention and invited to come. They laughed, and said the first day of opening would be the last, for he, the missionary, would doubtless be killed. Nothing daunted, in the midst of shouts and yells, the loudest of which was, "Here he comes, curse the Protestant crew!" the school made a beginning on the day named. The door was besieged, and the room soon filled. An effort was made at devotion by singing the 100th Psalm and prayer. Of the 45 persons present, from 6 to 18 years of age, 41 of them said they prayed, if they did at all, to the Virgin Mary. There were no seats, and no books, and only one person was present to do everything. The result was that next to nothing was done. It was, however, something to have made a beginning. The next Sunday arrived, and a second attempt was made for a school, but without much success, for on this occasion came a young fellow, liberated the day before from Newgate. During the attempt to sing he jumped and danced, and sang "Jim Crow." On being checked he threatened

to stab the superintendent. Another effort was made to get a the men and women by renting the room one night in the week. The annoyance was great and the success small. The man who let the room was a Romanist, and after a time, either from love of money or from opposition to mission effort, demanded double rent. This led to another room being taken in White's Yard, a neighbouring court. This room was on the ground-floor, and so great was the noise and disturbance outside, that a room on the first-floor in the same house was secured for quiet. Here the effort made some progress, friends heard of it, and a few volunteered to assist in teaching. Those who came to work found they had to pay; they were poor, but they volunteered their money as freely as they did their services. They, however, thought that if they made known their need to others, they would have more means, and so acquire a greater power for good. The teachers held a meeting to consider their position, when it was agreed to have collecting cards prepared for gathering penny subscriptions. Each card had spaces for twelve names, so when full one shilling was expected. These cards were returnable at the end of each month; each subscriber was therefore considered good for one shilling a year. The teachers subscribed as well as collected, and in order to secure the welfare of the infant effort, met on 14th June, 1842, and resolved themselves to be its managing committee. The names of the persons forming this committee were Santo, Rosier, Provan, Fletcher, Macdonald, Bayley, Starey, and Passey. At the same meeting Mr. Provan was confirmed in his position of superintendent, and then Mr. Santo was elected to be treasurer, and Mr. Macdonald to be secretary. A sum of £1 5s. was at once placed in the hands of the treasurer, as given or collected by five out of the eight persons who composed this first committee meeting. At the second meeting, on August 9, six members were present, when it was agreed to have a fresh supply of collecting cards, to provide six chairs for the teachers, and to open the room on Tuesdays for boys, and for girls on Thursdays, all to be above 14 years of age. This extension involved an increase of rent, and it was agreed to raise it to 2s. 6d. per week on condition that the landlord kept the room clean and in order. On September 13 five members were present, and it was agreed to look out for a more suitable room for the school, also that the first anniversary being nearly due, it should be duly celebrated by a tea-meeting. The treasurer, Mr.

Santo, reported receipts at £4 15s. 6d., and payments at £2 4s., leaving a balance in hand of £2 11s. 6d. At a meeting held November 8th, Mr. Provan reported that he had engaged a room at, and removed the school to, 65, West Street, where it was first held on the previous Sunday. The rent was to be 3s. per week, but it was thought the room was far too small. The committee endorsed this removal, but expressed a hope of getting a room more eligible and spacious. At the meeting on February 7, 1843, Mr. Santo resigned his office of treasurer, as he had to labour elsewhere. Mr. Starey was appointed to the vacant office. The sum paid in by nine friends was £3 7s. 2d. and the payments amounted to £1 14s. 10½d. Two important resolutions were adopted at this meeting—one was to request the new treasurer to insert an advertisement in the *Times*, appealing for funds on behalf of the school; the other, in consequence of having to refuse applicants for admission, that an additional room be taken on the same floor as the school at an increased rent of from 3s. to 5s. per week. The first response to this appeal, according to the report given at the meeting of committee on March 14, amounted to £1 15s.; other sums increased the amount to £3 4s. The expenses amounted to £3 12s., of which the advertisement was 10s.

We give a *facsimile* of the advertisement as it appeared in the *Times* in February, 1843:—

RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Field-lane Sabbath-school, 65, West-street, Saffron-hill.

THE Teachers are desirous of laying before the public a few facts connected with this School, situated in this most wretched and demoralized locality. It was opened in 1841, for instructing (free of expence) those who, from their poverty or ragged condition, are prevented attending any other place of religious instruction. The School is under the superintendence of the district missionary of the London City Mission, and is opened on Sunday and also on Thursday evening, when the average attendance is seventy (adults and children). The teachers are encouraged by the success which, under God, has attended their efforts, as manifested by the increased numbers and altered conduct of some of the scholars. This appeal to the Christian public is made to afford permanency to a work of charity, commenced and supported by a few laymen, whose means are inadequate to the expenses necessarily attendant upon the enlarged state of the school. Any lady or gentleman willing to assist as teachers will be cordially welcomed.

Donations and subcriptions will be thankfully received by the Rev. P. Lorimer, 12, Colebrooke-row, Islington; W. D. Owen, Esq., 43, Great Coram-street; Mr. S. R. Starey, Treasurer, 17, Ampton-street, Gray's-inn-road; or by the Secretary, Mr. P. Macdonald, 30, Great Sutton-street, Clerkenwell. Left off garments sent to the School will be carefully distributed.

We cannot trace that the term "Ragged" had been used prior to the appearance of this advertisement. It suggested itself to

Mr. Starey on recalling to memory the scene described on page 48; he therefore headed the advertisement "Ragged School," as it forcibly and tritely expressed the character and condition of pupils so thoroughly depraved in mind, and *ragged* in apparel. One of the first answers, if not the very first, was a letter from Lord Ashley, giving encouragement and offering aid. We should have been glad to have placed on permanent record a copy of this letter, but unfortunately we have not the opportunity.

Up to this date we have been helped by some entries on nine small leaves, out of twenty-four, of a little penny memorandum book, which is the original minute-book of this school, and which brought us down to the beginning of 1843; then comes a hiatus in the society's records which extends towards the close of 1848.

During this hiatus the Ragged School movement had taken great strides. The Ragged School Union had been formed—London divided into sections; and the number of Ragged Schools reported on for the year 1848-9 was 82. The number of scholars on Sunday was 8,130; on week-days 4,295; on week-evenings 4,824. The voluntary teachers were 929; the paid teachers 124; and the accommodation secured for 11,710 scholars.

Field Lane had largely participated in this development, for the school had been removed from the first-floor of 65, West Street, to a very capacious building forming part of the old neighbourhood of West Street, but abutting on the new thoroughfare, then called Victoria Street, but now Farringdon Road.

The cut on the preceding page shows the interior of the upper room, which was spacious, and had formed part of large manufacturing premises, which were adapted to school purposes.* Great changes had also taken place in the management; not one of the persons who took office in June, 1842, being found in the list of 1848. The latter consisted of

Lord Ashley, M.P., President.
Duke of Argyll, Vice-President.
A Visiting Committee of fourteen Clergymen and Laymen.
A Managing Committee of fourteen gentlemen.
Mr. Mounstephen, Superintendent.
Mr. Charles Gravenor, Treasurer.
Mr. J. T. M. Ware, Secretary, and
Mr. Swan, Collector.

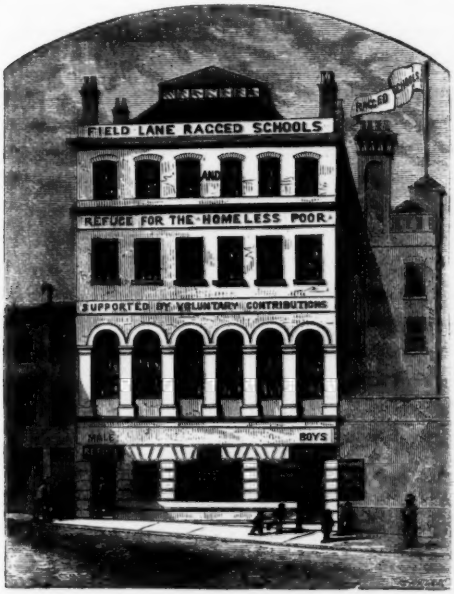
The contributions for the year 1848-9 amounted to £309 0s. 5¼d., and the payments £293 11s. 7½d. The Committee thus formed lost no time in opening up fresh means of usefulness, and at the close of their first year they expressed: first, gratitude to God for mercies received; secondly, a determination to press "ONWARD" in their work; and, thirdly, made an earnest appeal for additional help. In this year Day and Infant Schools were opened; Tailoring, Shoemaking, and Wood-chopping Classes for boys were commenced; Needlework Classes for women; Adult Classes for men. A house in Fox and Knot Court was taken for a nightly shelter. The experience gained led to the taking the ground-floor of the school premises, and fitting them up for a Night Refuge for men. To these extensions was added that of emigration.

On the 24th of December, 1858, the *Times* sent an electric shock round the circle of British society, just as it was preparing for its Christmas festivals, by means of a leading article, calling attention to what it designated "an excellent but most distressing narrative" of the wretched creatures at the Field Lane Ragged

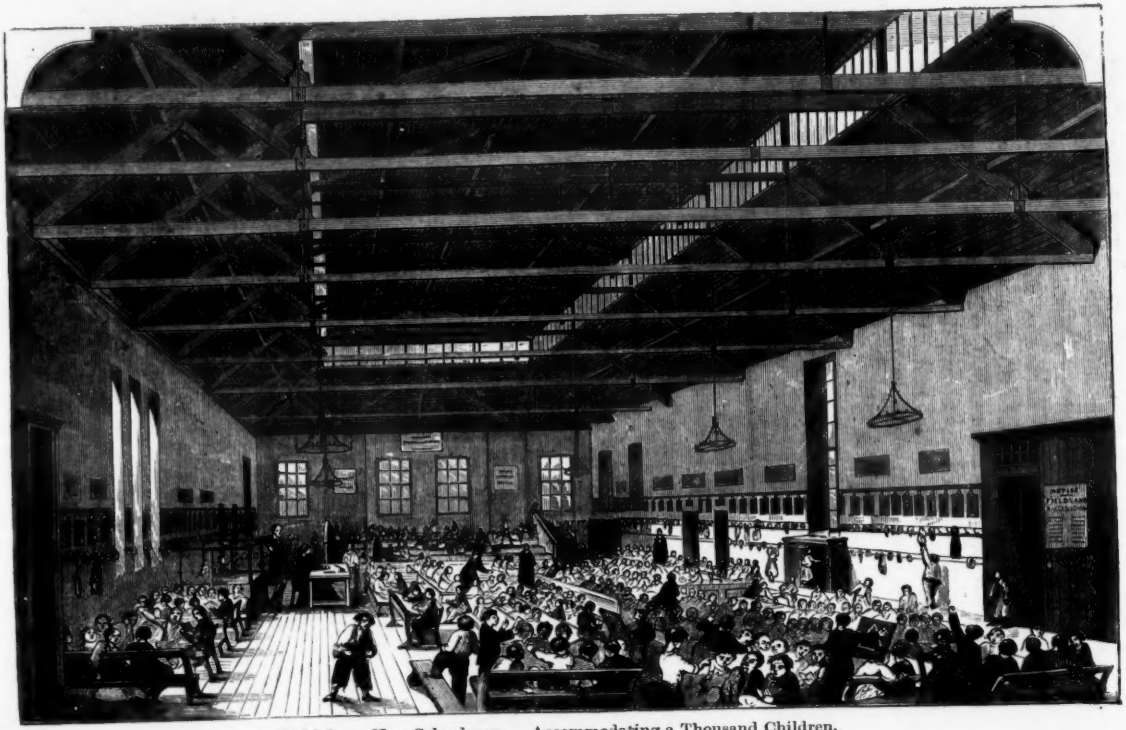
* It was in this room, at a meeting of delegates convened in the year 1851 by the Committee of the Ragged School Union, that the subject of employing Ragged School boys as street shoeblacks was considered, and agreed to. Doubtless the Great Exhibition of that year greatly helped this infant effort. The boys began work at the beginning of April, and in the first year the average of 36 boys earned £650, or £18 per year for each boy; but in the year 1875, the average of 373 boys earned £11,658, or £31 per year for each boy.

School and Refuge, the heading of which was, "Our Homeless Poor." The first result of reading these two articles was that within a few weeks, almost within a few days, upwards of £7,000 was sent in by about 3,000 donors, of whom considerably more than one-third were anonymous. The annual subscriptions increased from £180 to about £800. The second result was the taking a large place in West Street, the rebuilding and fitting up of which for a Female Refuge cost £1,500.

In consequence of the clearing of the locality of buildings of



every kind rendered needful to carry out the schemes of the Underground Railway, the Dead Meat Market, and the Holborn Viaduct, the arrangements made for carrying on the now extensive operations of these Schools and Refuges were soon disturbed. The ample funds placed at the disposal of the Committee, backed by the sympathy and aid of a large constituency, enabled the managers to purchase a freehold near where the school was first started. The site has two frontages—one on Saffron Hill,



Field Lane New Schoolroom.—Accommodating a Thousand Children.

the other on Hatton Wall. The elevation of the latter we give on page 55. On this site were erected, at a cost of £10,000, very spacious premises for School and Refuge purposes.

Portions of the exterior are heavy and prison-like, but the schoolroom, at the top of the building, is one of the finest as to space, convenience, and ventilation to be found in London. Of this room a fair representation is given on page 56.

At the north end of this room may be seen a tablet bearing the following inscription :—

> "In the year 1841, near this spot, the Field Lane Ragged School was opened. In the year 1850 the munificence of a lady enabled the School Committee to add a Male Refuge for the destitute and homeless poor to the establishment. In the year 1858 a graphic article, written by Nicholas Woods, Esq., appeared in the *Times*, entitled, 'Our Homeless Poor,' describing this institution, its working, and its wants. The responses made to that appeal by a charitable and liberal public enabled the Committee to establish in addition a Female Refuge and Infant School, and otherwise greatly to extend the whole work and benefits of the Institution, leaving the munificent balance of £12,000 towards the expenses involved in concentrating all the above charities, by the purchase of this freehold site, and the erection and maintenance thereto of this extensive building. The foundation-stone was laid on the 18th June, 1865, by the most noble President of the Institution, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., who also opened the building on the 6th day of June, 1866."

It was now thought that a permanent home for the Institution had been secured; but in less than ten short years intimations were received that all this arrangement, labour, anxiety, and expense availed but little, for the site was wanted to effect further metropolitan improvements. The new line of thoroughfare from Oxford Street to Shoreditch required the removal of the new premises, and utilising its site for the new roadway. In all probability not a vestige of this pile of school and refuge buildings will remain another year. In the meantime other arrangements are being made. It appears that the Industrial

Field Lane New Schoolroom.—Accommodating a Thousand Children.

Schools will be removed to Hampstead,* and the Schools, Refuges, and other Mission operations, to buildings now in course of erection in Vine Street, between Leather Lane and Gray's Inn Road. The elevation of this new building we give on the next page.

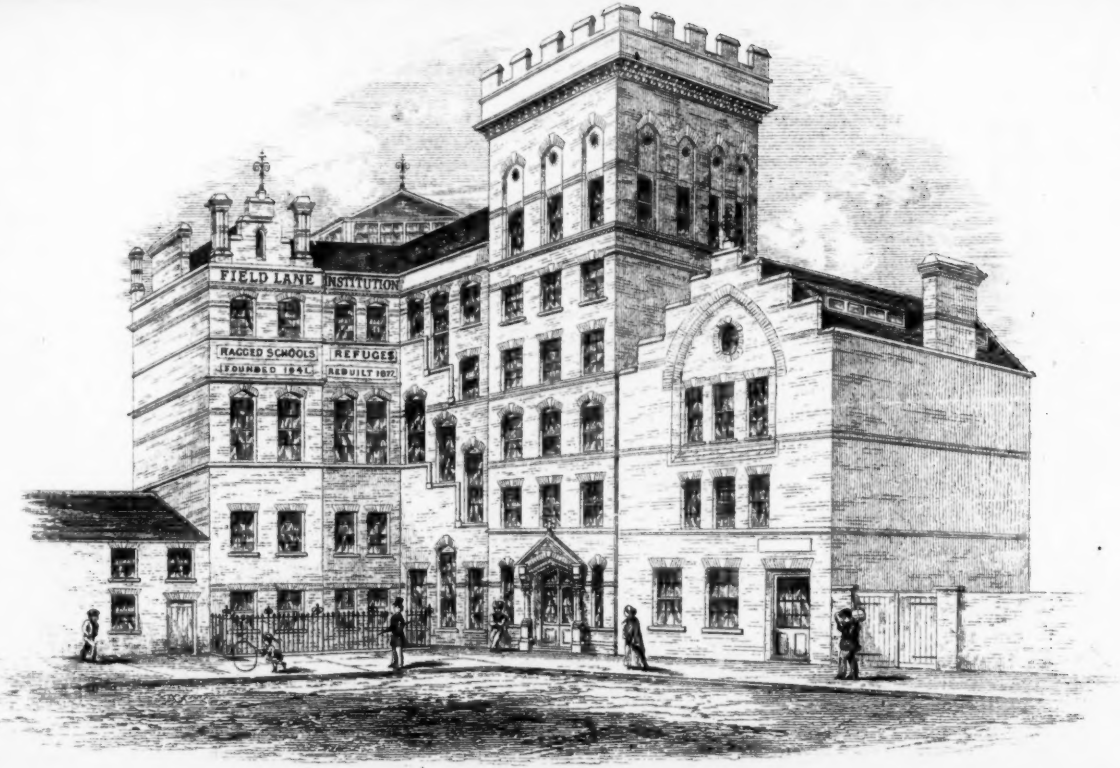
On the question of religious teaching, the thirty-fourth Report, that issued for 1876, says:—

"Whatever may be the future of religious teaching in relation to national education, it is clearly the duty of the Christian Church to prepare for the worst, and to make the ragged children of the streets its special charge, sparing no efforts to gather them in, both on Sundays and week-days, for instruction in the definite and dogmatic truths of the Gospel. But the question might naturally be asked—Can the children be induced to attend? Experience at this school emphatically answers 'Yes.' The doors have only to be opened and the children gladly enter. It is important to state that *this school continues essentially a Ragged School.*"

The same Report gives details of the operations carried on by the present Committee. The list is as follows:—

Certified Industrial Schools for girls and boys.
Bible Ragged Schools.
Day Schools under the School Board.
Male and Female Refuges for the Homeless.
Servants' Training Home.
Ragged Church Mission Service.
Sunday Evening Service.
Children's Religious Service.
Girls' Sewing Class.
Night Schools.
Mothers' Meeting.
Coal Club.
Penny Bank.
Band of Hope.
Visiting and Relief Society.
Maternal Society.

* The Girls' Industrial School has already been removed to convenient premises at Church Row, Hampstead; and part of the Hillfield estate, between Hampstead and Kilburn, has been purchased as a freehold site on which to build an Industrial School for the boys.


FIELD LANE INSTITUTION
RAGGED SCHOOLS
FOUNDED 1841
REFUGES
REBUILT 1872

The Ragged Church in this school has just completed twenty-five years of consecutive service. It has been the largest of the Ragged Churches in London, as well as the oldest. It has often had more than 1,000 persons present at the same service. The numbers are not now so large as formerly in consequence of the increased number of these means of grace in the metropolis for the very poor.

The thirty-third Report states that the Institution possesses no endowment whatever. With the exception of the grants received on behalf of the certified Industrial Schools, which far from cover the expense of their maintenance, and the small sum received from the School Board for London for the use of the school-rooms, this great work is wholly dependent upon voluntary support. A quarter of a century since our late esteemed friend Joseph Payne gave the following as a part of his tail-piece to a speech made at an anniversary of this school:—

"Field Lane! thou wast a noted spot
For sale of things by thieving got;
But now thou art a glorious place
For thieves their footsteps to retrace;—
Forsake the ways they loved before,
Repent—and 'go and sin no more.'

"And thou for years misnamed hast been,
Without a flower or spot of green;
But in thee now, by Sharon's rose,
The lily of the valley grows;
And though still barren lies the ground
A *moral* fragrance breathes around.

"God sends thee now the shade, the shower,
And forms of thee a verdant bower,
To shelter those with weary feet,
And aching hearts that in thee meet;
While Christian lab'rers ceaseless toil
To dig and plant and weed the soil."

THE RAGGED SCHOOL WEDDING PRESENT.—In the list of "Presents" to the Lady Theodora Grosvenor, sister of the Duke of Westminster, on her recent marriage, occupying half a column of the *Morning Post*, we note "A Pincushion from the girls of the 'One Tun' Ragged Schools, Westminster, made by themselves." This pincushion, about five inches in diameter, consisted of forty-three pieces of various coloured silk, tastefully arranged in hexagons and ang'es, and finished as an octagon.

THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" AND THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

WHILE publishing our last number the *Daily Telegraph*, on January 8th, 1877, gave a leading article on the Ragged School Union and the Shoeblack Brigades, the first paragraph of which is as follows:—

"Dr. Johnson on one occasion, commiserating the barbarism out of which he supposed the juvenile population north of the Tweed were obliged to struggle in order to attain the rank of civilisation, naïvely remarked that something might be made of a Scotchman if he were caught young. We are not informed what special disadvantages the great lexicographer saw in the condition of the youth of North Britain as compared with the other sections of the United Kingdom to warrant the opinion that the prospect of their mental development was hopeless unless they were snatched away from early associations before the stage of adolescence had terminated. But the marvel is that society should have been so slow in practically recognising the application of the principle involved in the saying we have mentioned, and vividly illustrated by Victor Hugo in his 'Les Miserables.' All young people whatsoever, without distinction of country, whose environment is unfavourable to their intellectual and moral elevation, can be most effectually impressed for good while their nature is plastic. Yet only within the last forty years have systematic efforts been made in this country to act upon the maxim that 'prevention is better than cure' by taking the offspring of paupers and criminals, and training them to honest industry before they become confirmed in the habits of their parents. The zeal of individuals like John Pounds, of Portsmouth, and Andrew Walker, of Westminster, had already been kindled in this species of philanthropy; but not until the formation of the Ragged School Union in 1844 was there any general movement organised for the purpose of rescuing the *gamin* class from filth and idleness. When that admirable institution began to be superseded by the Board schools it numbered under its control 204 Day Schools, 207 Evening Schools, and 226 Sunday Schools in the metropolis, with an aggregate attendance on an average of 26,000 children. There is considerable diversity of opinion as to whether the School Board possesses at present the requisite apparatus for dealing with wastrel children as successfully as the Ragged School Union has been able to do. But all will agree that London is laid under lasting obligations to the latter association, not only for extensively thinning the ranks of the criminal classes, by removing miserable urchins from temptations to a degrading life, but also for bringing them under useful instruction and inspiring them with sentiments of honour and self-

respect. To the impetus given by the example of Lord Shaftesbury and his colleagues in this enterprise we are chiefly indebted for the establishment of industrial and reformatory schools, training ships, and schemes of juvenile emigration, all of which have aimed in common at transforming the neglected child into an intelligent and a useful citizen."

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE YOUNG WOMEN OF RYDE.

Several who are interested in the welfare of young women in Ryde, have long felt the need of a place similar to the "Christian Institutes" which have been established in London and other towns, in which young women engaged in business, or in millinery, mantle- and dress-making, &c., can spend their evenings sociably and profitably, and find sympathy and friendship, with intellectual and spiritual privileges. Eighty pounds having been contributed towards the necessary expenses, and a desirable house having been found, it is intended to open it as the "Ryde Young Women's Christian Institute," as soon as this can be done without incurring debt. About £200 will be necessary for furnishing, and not less than the same sum annually for the current expenses, including rent, coal, gas, matron's salary, servants' wages, &c.

Contributions in money, furniture, or books suitable for a library, &c., will be gladly received by Miss Hadfield, Yeldon Cottage, John Street, Ryde.

In our last number we called attention to the subject of institutes for girls as well as for boys, showing the necessity that exists for doing something of the kind for them during the perilous passage from childhood to womanhood, under the influence of good and refined women, who would do for them what good and refined men are doing for their brothers, and surround them with that important safeguard—the belief that they are cared for by Christian neighbours, to whom their well-doing will be a joy, their ill-doing a grief. We are glad to find our Ryde friends are moving in this direction, with especial reference to the young *women* of their town who are engaged in business. Miss Hadfield, an indefatigable worker for Ragged Schools, writes to us:—

"Could you *show* the enclosed circular to any who would be likely to feel interested. I am quite at a *standstill* from not having sufficient funds, and have already too expensive an amount of Christian "work" in hand to be able to undertake this *additional* object without assistance from others."

Mr. Gent will thankfully receive contributions at 1, Exeter Hall, for this added effort of Christian enterprise.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL BOARD BUILDINGS.

THE following Memorial of the Committees of the Sunday School Union, Church of England Sunday School Institute, Ragged School Union, and the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Union, was lately presented to the School Board:—

SHEWETH,—That your Memorialists, representing a large proportion of the Sunday Schools of London and its suburbs, have found that the efficiency of these Institutions is, in very many cases, seriously impaired by the defectiveness or unsuitability of the accommodation provided for them, particularly in the poorer and more densely-crowded districts of the metropolis.

Your Memorialists, therefore, received with much satisfaction the intelligence of a former decision of your Board, by which school buildings under your jurisdiction were permitted to be hired for the purposes of scriptural instruction on the Lord's day.

Regarding such decision as adapted to confer a valuable boon on many highly deserving institutions, your Memorialists regret to find that the offer has only been accepted to a very limited extent. They would, however, respectfully point out to your Board that this partial failure has arisen, not from want of appreciation of the privilege of spacious, airy, and well-arranged school-rooms, but mainly, if not exclusively, from the fact that the rentals asked are beyond the means of those who would otherwise be ready and willing to pay them. The terms asked are, in fact, virtually prohibitory, at least in those cases where the greatest difficulties already exist, and where, in consequence, the need for improved accommodation is most urgently felt. Hence the conductors of these schools, whose labours are purely gratuitous and benevolent, are compelled to forego advantages of which they would otherwise gladly avail themselves.

Your Memorialists, therefore, earnestly request that your Board will take into its early consideration the question of so reducing the terms for renting Board Schools on Sundays, as to enable the Managers and Teachers of Metropolitan Sunday Schools to participate to a much greater extent in the advantages offered, also so that children at present outside of any Sunday School may be gathered therein for scriptural instruction on the Lord's day.—W. Groser, Augustus Benham, F. J. Hartley, John E. Tresidder, Hon. Secs. of the Sunday School Union, 56, Old Bailey, E.C.; John Palmer, Secretary of the Church of England Sunday School Institute; Joseph G. Gent, Secretary to the Ragged School Union; Charles H. Kelly, Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Union, 2, Ludgate Circus. Feb. 10th, 1877.

The result of the petition, duly presented to the School Board, will be

seen in the following recommendation of the School Management Committee, which was adopted by the Board on Wednesday, March 7:—

"On the 14th February, the Board referred to the School Management Committee for consideration and report, memorials from the committees of the Sunday School Union, the Church of England Sunday School Institute, the Ragged School Union, and the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Union, requesting the Board to take into its early consideration the question of reducing the terms for renting Board Schools on Sundays. The rent charged at the present time is at the following rate:—2s. per head per annum for the use of the room or rooms during (1) the morning, or (2) the afternoon, or (3) the morning and the afternoon; 2s. 6d. per head per annum for use of the room or rooms during (4) the evening, or (5) the morning and evening, or (6) the afternoon and evening, or (7) the morning, afternoon, and evening.

"These charges were based on a rate of seven per cent. calculated on the average cost of the site and school buildings, together with playgrounds, boundary walls, caretakers' houses, &c. The committee now consider that the cost of the whole of the site was wrongly included in these charges, inasmuch as the playgrounds are never used by the tenants who occupy schools on Sundays for Sunday-school purposes. They also consider that the present charge at the rate of about seven per cent. is too high, and that it is practically restrictive in its operation. They are further of opinion that by a reduction of the rent, the Board will probably be a gainer in the end, inasmuch as the lettings will be more numerous. Having considered all the circumstances, the committee think that 1s. per head per annum is the amount which should be charged the tenant for rent; and they also consider that the present additional charge of 6d. per head per annum for use in the evening, to cover the expenses of gas, is excessive, and that it should be reduced to 4d. The committee accordingly recommend that, for the future, the charges for Sunday lettings be as follows:—1s. per head per annum for the use of the room or rooms during (1) the morning, or (2) the afternoon, or (3) the morning and the afternoon; 1s. 4d. per head per annum for the use of the room or rooms during (4) the evening, or (5) the morning and evening, or (6) the afternoon and evening, or (7) the morning, afternoon, and evening. It must be kept in mind that these amounts are quite exclusive of any charge for cleaning, which is borne entirely by the tenant. The committee also recommend that replies be sent to the memorialists informing them of the above decision."

It will be seen that by the united Memorial of the four societies the rents are reduced one half, thus removing the great difficulty that

stood in the way of using the Board buildings for Sunday Schools. The offer of the Board is liberal, and friends needing the accommodation will do well to make early application to G. H. Croad, Esq., Victoria Embankment, for one or more rooms in a given building, and the rent charged will be in proportion to the number of children the room is capable of holding for day-school purposes—namely, at the rate of £5 for one hundred scholars.

ROYAL EXCHANGE IN DANGER.

On the 26th of February last a deputation of the City clergy, headed by the Rev. Harvey Brooks, rector of St. Margaret's, Lothbury, waited upon the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, and presented him with a memorial signed by the whole of the Committees of Lloyd's and the Stock Exchange, and many of their members, the Postmaster-General, twenty-five of the City bankers, the Young Men's Christian Association, a number of mercantile trades, and 1,275 young men in wholesale houses and firms, begging the Licensing Justices of the City, and his lordship, as their chairman, to reject the application about to be made to them by Mr. E. T. Smith for a licence to convert the whole of the extensive vaults of the Royal Exchange into a restaurant and billiard saloon. They urged various reasons, as clergymen, against such a scheme, and contended that there were too many opportunities for drinking and betting already in existence in the City without so vast an addition being provided. The Lord Mayor, in reply, said the Licensing Justices, who would meet next month, would be guided by three main considerations—namely, the need of such additional accommodation (if such it be called), the adaptability of the place proposed, and the propriety of entrusting the applicant, whoever he might be, with a licence. Perhaps, also, the proprietors of licensed houses in the vicinity of the Royal Exchange would have something to say upon the matter. He would gladly take charge of the memorials presented to him, and if the decision rested with him the petitioners need have no fear as to the result. The deputation thanked his lordship and withdrew.

On a recent inspection of the vaults it was shown that there would be seating and standing accommodation for some 500 or 600 persons. Moreover, it is entirely screened from public view, and the construction of the premises is such that if they are turned into a place of public resort, accessible till midnight, and with the dangerous element of strong drink ever at hand, a door will assuredly be opened for all sorts of excess, the dire consequences of which we will not even venture to predict. The fact that all business is suspended in the City at a very early hour is another strong argument against the

necessity or the desirability of establishing any such place in this part of London. With the undoubted attractions of display and otherwise which this establishment, if licensed, would present to many of our City young men, and with the certain presence of doubtful characters of both sexes, it seems to us that nothing but moral and spiritual ruin will ensue to hundreds and thousands of these if the promoters of this unholy enterprise should succeed. Success! surely, under the circumstances, is simply impossible. On March 21, the application was considered by a full Bench at Guildhall. The full licence and the wine licence were refused by the City Magistrates.

SEVEN YEARS' WORK IN DRURY LANE.

FIFTY-THREE tracts written; of one, "For Nothing," twenty editions, exceeding a million copies, have been issued. Printed two hundred and twenty-four thousand. Circulated four hundred and seventy thousand.

Trained and sent out five missionaries, four Bible-women. Assisted in founding London Medical Mission. Rented one theatre, two music-halls, Mr. Bradlaugh's hall, two seasons.

Held twelve midnight meetings, more than a hundred girls rescued. Taken over two hundred homeless girls and women from casual wards and refuges, clothed, fed, sheltered, restored them to self-support. Provided food, clothing, shelter, for sixty men, sent them to work.

Held three hundred mothers' meetings; sold there five hundred pounds' worth of clothing. Supplied one hundred and twenty-four women with loan linen for confinements. Distributed several hundred winter blankets. Clothed scores of men, women, and children.

Fed six thousand adults with suppers; sixteen thousand homeless women with Sunday teas; forty-two thousand children with dinners in winter months.

Received nearly four hundred members into the Church, of whom two hundred and twenty-five remain; over a thousand children into Sunday School, Sewing Classes, and Band of Hope. Taken six hundred temperance pledges.

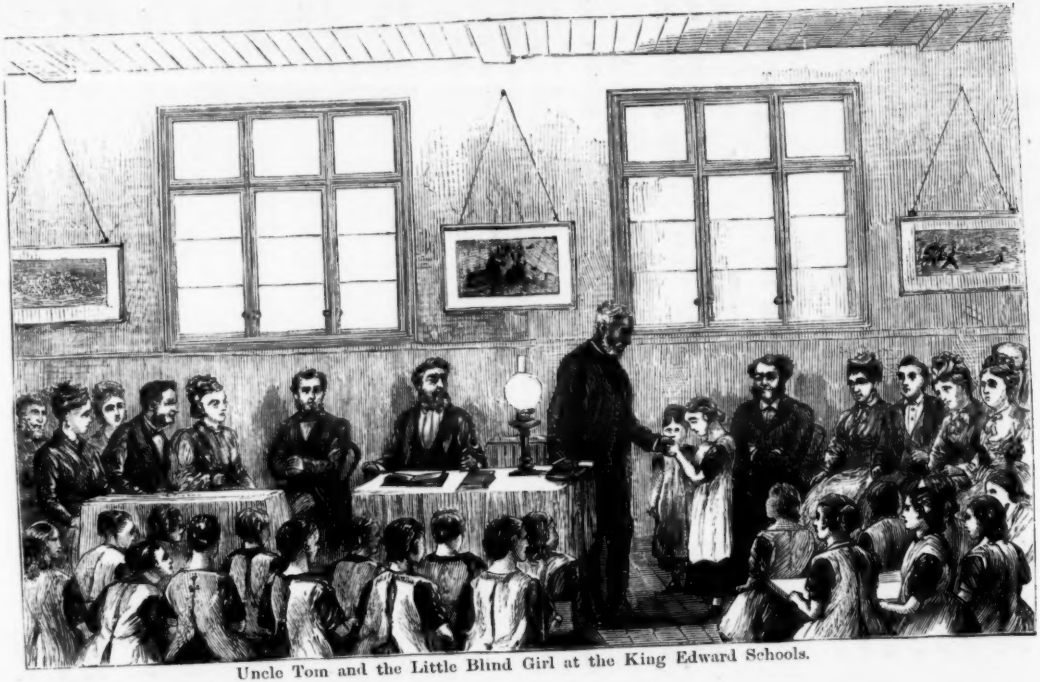
Held more than five thousand meetings for teaching and prayer. Walked upwards of twelve thousand miles.

Received and expended (for all purposes, including purchase of leases of church and two mission houses) nine thousand five hundred and twenty-five pounds.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory," "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever."

C. J. WHITMORE.

Mission House, 148, Drury Lane.



Uncle Tom and the Little Blind Girl at the King Edward Schools.

"UNCLE TOM'S" VISIT TO THE KING EDWARD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS AND GIRLS' REFUGE, CAMBRIDGE HEATH.

THIS benevolent institution, although rarely proclaimed, is a peaceful scene of prayerful and successful labour. The promoters of this godly enterprise have directed their attention to a class of the community which is not inaptly designated as waifs and strays, and demands the co-operation and sympathy of Christian people generally.

It is a significant fact that, in the two Homes, there are at present two hundred girls, who have been received principally from the City and Metropolitan police-courts, and thus rescued from lives of crime and misery. Here they are boarded, clothed, educated, and trained for home duties, thus fitting them for domestic service, and at the age of sixteen are supplied with an outfit, and sent to suitable situations. It is great cause of thankfulness to know from the past that, of those thus trained, ninety per cent., or nearly so, have turned out well. It will be no surprise to the reader that our noble-hearted Earl of Shaftesbury exhibits the keenest sympathy with the work and progress of these homes. On being informed that "Uncle Tom," and Mr. John Lobb, of the *Christian Age*, had been invited to visit the homes and give addresses, his lordship expressed a hope that they would do so, and charged them with a message of kindness to *one* out of the many children whom the Earl regards with so great an interest—viz., "Tiny."

Sunday evening, March 4, 1877, was selected for this pleasing visit, and that "UNCLE TOM" might address and interest the two hundred young immortals on a subject which might be remembered through life. On arriving, Mr. Lobb and Rev. Josiah Henson ("Uncle Tom") were conducted by H. R. Williams, Esq. (the Treasurer) through admirably-arranged apartments for cooking, sleeping, playing, and other purposes; forming, in fact, a really model home. Such has been the success vouchsafed to this enterprise of love, that the premises are now full and greatly need enlargement, the cost of which would be no difficulty if the benevolent-minded could but pass through these Samaritan homes and feel the impressive eloquence of the social picture before them. On entering the spacious dining or lecture hall, about two hundred cheerful little girls sprang to their feet. Mr. J. H. Lloyd, the honorary secretary, having conducted the preliminary service, Mr. H. R. Williams introduced "UNCLE TOM," who was deeply moved at the touching sight, and assured the teachers and committee how fully he sympathised with the little ones, and hoped that their future, so fraught with danger and trial, might, by God's blessing upon the kind Christian instruction given to them,

he attended with the happiest results both to themselves and others. In simple strains he recited his experience, and kept wisely to the youthful period of his life, which shared most largely of suffering and sorrow. The little auditors were keenly interested with "Uncle Tom's" story of his being torn away from his mother, how he was put up on a block, was bought and sold to cruel masters. Heartily did he praise British philanthropy, which had rested not until slavery was abolished and freedom reigned. The founders of these homes were encouraged to persevere in their God-like enterprise, and rescue from perishing these motherless little ones. On being informed that one among the children was *blind*, "Uncle Tom" called her to him, and, patting her on the head, said to her, "You can't see me, my dear, but perhaps you would like to hear me sing?" To this she promptly answered, "Yes." He then sang her one of his favourite hymns—"Hold the Fort."

The interest was much increased by Mr. Williams introducing Mr. Lobb, who, over twenty years ago, had been a *scholar* in his school, and in whom Mr. Williams had felt a great interest ever since. It was, he said, very gratifying to him to see Mr. Lobb occupying so honourable and important a position as the manager of a Christian paper, which circulated upwards of 70,000 weekly. He was pleased to know, moreover, that with "Uncle Tom" Mr. Lobb had travelled many hundreds of miles to hold meetings in chapels, church schools, halls, and other places, before many thousands of people; and, finally, that both of them were on the morrow to be introduced to her Majesty the Queen at Windsor.

Mr. Lobb most heartily reciprocated the kindly feelings, and was delighted to meet so many bright-eyed and happy-hearted little ones. Moreover it was a peculiar pleasure to meet with his old superintendent, Mr. Williams, and also a fellow-scholar, Mr. Charles Montague, in the days so long gone by. He amused the young folks by describing "Uncle Tom" when he was young, and could only have his head "combed" once a week, on Sunday mornings, by his mother, who always found his hair "very knotty;" how young "Tom" was led to hear Mr. McKenny preach, and how his young heart was touched by the story that "Jesus died for *Him;*" how he was led to love and serve Jesus, who had been his guide and help for nearly eighty-eight years. Afterwards Mr. Lobb and "Uncle Tom" were presented with Tiny's likeness, as a happy souvenir of this most interesting visit.

Would that the wish of the good old patriarch "Uncle Tom" could be speedily realised, and funds placed in the hands of the Treasurer, Mr. H. R. Williams, 3, Lime Street, E.C., for the enlargement and completion of this most excellent institution.

LADY C. GORDON.
MRS. BROWN.
WM. DARLING GRIFFITH.

ANOTHER pioneer of Ragged Schools has received her summons to the Master's presence.

LADY CHARLOTTE GORDON died at Norwood on the 21st December, 1876, at the ripe age of eighty years.

On first taking up her residence in Hans Place, Chelsea, more than thirty years ago, she found the inhabitants at the rear of her house so demoralised that she was led to consider what she, as a practical Christian woman, could do for this degraded community. God's providence no doubt ordered "the bounds of her habitation," and God's Spirit wrought in her to become the servant of Christ towards these needy ones.

The story is nearly a repetition of many other Ragged Schools. She resolved to begin the work of dealing with the occupants of Exeter Buildings by taking *a* room in one of the houses and opening it as a school. At this time it was a court which the police would not willingly enter; but here she commenced in the name of Jesus that work which we trust has brought, and will yet bring, souls to the Saviour.

This was her ruling motive, and she associated with her a band of workers, some of whom have preceded her into heavenly rest, and some remain to continue the work.

From one room it became necessary to take a whole house. Ultimately three houses were adapted to school purposes. The Sunday School from the first has been a prominent feature in it. The City Missionary has the use of it for various services in the week, and on Sundays. Many hearts have been stirred up to care for it, and to provide the necessary funds. It has done its work quietly and unostentatiously. Great moral and social improvement has taken place in the neighbourhood itself, and, although the new educational agency sets it aside as a Day School, it is hoped that it will still be of use as an Infant School, Night School, Sunday School, and for City Missionary Services.

As long as health and strength were granted to her, Lady Charlotte Gordon was ever active in the school; when health failed her, and she removed from London, she never ceased to be interested in all

that concerned it, and was always glad to get information about it from those who were engaged in its operations. It was the central interest of her life, and the spirit which animated her seemed to pervade those who took part with her in carrying it on. This earnest spirit remained with her to the end, through a long period of weakness and suffering, in evidence of which her annual invitation to the old scholars was issued in her name as usual, though ere the day came her spirit was released from the suffering body.

Lady Charlotte Gordon is another instance of what weakness, leaning upon Divine strength, can do. Her example is another call to the servants of Christ—"Go ye also into the vineyard"—"The harvest is ready."

Mrs. Brown rests after much labour—labour among the poor of Sermon Lane, Islington. They knew her well, and her coadjutors rendered her willing co-operation in her school and mission to make her work effective. For twenty years she conducted the Sermon Lane Ragged School, first as assistant, then as principal teacher. In this capacity she continued till about four years since, when the Board School movement superseded her efforts as a teacher. She was too far advanced in life to enter upon a new career for self-support, and by a joint action of the Committee of the School and members of Union Chapel, Islington, a sum of about fourteen shillings per week was collected for her support, and which was continued to the close of life. She with this help did not retire from active effort, but made herself useful in helping to conduct the Mothers' Meeting, visiting the sick, and aiding the Maternal Society. These labours of love she continued till within seven weeks of death, when she fell down the stairs of the house of a friend. She was taken home and cared for by loving friends. Instead of recovering, as was fondly hoped, she took cold, bronchitis followed, and she passed away on the 17th December last, and was buried in Abney Park Cemetery on the 23rd of that month.

"Happy soul! thy days are ended,
All thy mourning days below;
Go, by angel guards attended,
To the throne of Jesus, go."

It is with painful feelings we have to place on record the death of Mr. W. D. Griffith, of St. Paul's Churchyard and York Villas, Kensington. The loss sustained by the demise of our late friend will be felt by a large circle of Christian workers. That loss will be the more keenly felt because the removal was so unexpected. As usual, Mr. Griffith discharged his duties on the Sunday in the Independent

Church, Allen Street, Kensington, as one of the deacons, which office he had held for twenty years. On the Monday he prepared to go to business, but not feeling quite well, sought medical aid, and was advised to remain at home. The symptoms became more serious, and on the Tuesday, February 20, 1877, he passed away. His remains were buried in Brompton Cemetery on the 27th of that month. The respect to the departed was shown by the presence of about 1,500 sorrowing friends at the chapel in Allen Street, where the service had been conducted by the Rev. Dr. Raleigh, and at the grave by the Rev. Dr. Stoughton.

Mr. Griffith had for some years been a member of the Committee of the Ragged School Union, and for years before had been a worker in, and supporter of, local Ragged Schools. Before these schools were designated "*Ragged*," which is thirty-four years ago, Mr. Griffith devoted his early energies to the conduct of a Sunday and Night School of 200 roughs in the neighbourhood of Shepherdess Fields. He was therefore considered a veteran in the Ragged School cause. Although he was in his seventy-third year, yet he attended both the meetings of Committee of the Ragged School Union the week before his death, at one of which he was the chairman. His death was reported to the Committee of the Union at the March meeting, when the following minute was entered upon the records:—

> "The Committee, on becoming aware of the loss which they and the Society have sustained by the death of their late friend and helper, Mr. W. D. Griffith, expressed their desire to place on the minutes a record of the esteem in which they held him, and also requested that a copy of such minute should be forwarded to the bereaved sister and brothers."

Resolved:—

> "That the Committee of the Ragged School Union desire to express their profound sense of the loss which they and this Society have sustained in the death of their dear friend and able coadjutor, Mr. W. D. Griffith, who for nine years was one of their most useful, devoted, and respected fellow-members. And, further, the time, money, and personal service which he gave to local Ragged Schools for more than twenty years enhance their respect and esteem. They feel that the loss sustained by the cessation of the active services of one so full of knowledge and so ripe in experience is great, and will be felt by those who are interested in the onward work of the Ragged School movement. While the memory of such virtues is a rich legacy of unspeakable value to his sorrowing friends, it gives them also the radiant assurance that their loss is his

eternal gain, and that he not only rests from his labours, but has entered into the joy of his Lord.

"To the bereaved sister and brothers the Committee desire to express their condolence and sympathy, and would earnestly pray that this dispensation of Providence may be sanctified, and that they may realise the fulness of the Redeemer's precious promise, 'My grace is sufficient for thee,' and that, by and by, they, with their redeemed brother, 'may stand without fault before the throne of God.'"

QUARRY WORK AMONGST THE YOUNG.

(From the *Christian.*)

THERE is a great deal of hard, plodding, Christian work done in London, which, by its unobtrusiveness, is little known beyond its immediate circle, and to the eye of Him who seeth in secret. All honour to those "quarrymen" who dig down to the rough unhewn mass of ragged humanity, and endeavour to shape it for the Christian superstructure.

So we thought on emerging from a Ragged School in Lambeth last Sunday evening. Wending our way from God's house in the morning, we were accosted by a lady friend, much esteemed for her good works. "Oh," said she, "I am glad to have met you. We are short of teachers at the Ragged School; some are away. Last Sunday we had nearly 1,000 children present, and what we shall do with a similar number this evening I cannot tell. Do come and help us." The appeal was irresistible, and at the appointed hour of seven we were threading our way through a densely populated district of Lambeth, skirting the river, and only a short distance from the Archbishop's Palace. The intersecting streets, courts, and alleys were teeming with people vainly trying to get what air there might be stirring, while the troops of children were apparently such as no man could number.

Gaining the street in which the school is located, there was gathered an immense throng of ragged, shoeless, yet withal happy children, eagerly waiting for admittance. A signal to the gatekeeper, a struggle and a wrangle, and we found the twenty-five teachers inside just concluding a prayer-meeting. They evidently knew the only true source of strength. Presently the shouting grew more distinct, and in rushed helter-skelter nearly the expected thousand, the girls blocking one passage and the boys the other. The two large schools were rapidly filled, and to note the interesting characteristics

of the gathering awakened very mingled reflections. Boys there were of every size and type; and girls, too, in some cases with babies—one especially had a supply of milk in a suspicious-looking dram-bottle. But there was other work to be done. The superintendent first collected all the interesting toys brought in. (Experience, I suspect, had suggested this prudent step.) Loud knocking at the desk produced comparative silence while a hymn was announced. The singing of "Around the throne of God in heaven" had a quieting effect, and prayer followed with only slight interruptions. It was rough work, and quiet measures were plainly inadequate. Amid much shouting and noise the mass was broken up into sections, and led out to class-rooms, classes, &c., and we found ourselves face to face with fifty girls to talk to for half an hour. We had to tack about to gain attention, and succeeded to a moderate extent. So with all the others, and if palpable results are rare, we know that truths are heard which, if heeded, will make for their everlasting peace. May we not ask, "What shall the harvest be?"

Another assembly, a few hearty, earnest words, another hymn and another prayer, and the motley assemblage separated to a hundred or more surrounding tenements.

The phases of missionary Ragged School work may have modified with the social changes of the last forty years, but only the wilfully deaf and blind can ignore the need there is still to be up and doing. "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" EGLISE.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Quarterly Record.

DEAR SIR,—I read with much interest the account of the first Industrial School (Ragged) opened in London. I am happy to say that I possess a copy of the engraving referred to, which occupies a prominent position in a Ragged School which was opened nearly twenty years ago in the same district. In the article you refer to the remark of the poor man, "If there had been such a school when I was young, I had not been a thief!" and I feel pleased to convey to you a very unexpected testimony of the good effected by that school, from a respectable working man with a wife and six children, the oldest a promising young servant of sixteen, and a prize-holder, who, with his family, for some generations has lived in that unsavoury locality! "That was the best thing ever Lord Ashley did for these parts, and it's a pity it's done away with. I got all my learning there when I was a little chap, and I was taught shoemaking, and very useful I

find it, and so would any poor man. I can't do fine work, but I can mend all our boots and shoes, and keep us all tidy!"

Modern "improvements" are sweeping away these useful institutions for *preventing* crime, and what do they give us instead? *Reformatories!*

Yours faithfully,

February 17, 1877. A. H.

INSPECTORS TO BECOME TEACHERS' HELPERS.

In anticipation of the increased work of the Inspectorial staff, the Education Department is, says the *School Guardian*, preparing to increase the staff itself. We see that, in the estimates, the increase for expenses of inspection is £18,000. Recently the names of several new Inspectors have been gazetted, and we hear of others awaiting their appointment. One object in this increase of numbers is that most schools should be inspected twice a year; once for the purpose of examination for grants, and once for friendly conference and encouragement. We regard this proposal with much satisfaction, and are sure that every right-minded teacher will gladly welcome these extra visits. It will be a pleasure to meet the Inspector in the capacity of a friend instead of that of an inquisitor. When that important functionary visits but once a year, there is great anxiety of preparation, a nervousness when the time comes, and a painful waiting for results. The alternate visits will be very different. There will be no haste, no fuss, no misgiving. Teachers, managers, and inspectors can confer together, interchange ideas as to trials and difficulties, understand each other better, and work afterwards with greater ease and confidence. This is something very different from the visits of surprise, or, more properly, visits of detection, which some ingenious clerk of the Council Office devised as a snare for the unwary.

CERTIFIED EFFICIENT SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Education Act of 1876, which came into operation on the 1st of January, introduces a new class of schools—namely, schools which, though not State-aided, are open to State inspection, and are certified by the Education Department to be "efficient schools." A short series of rules has been issued for the guidance of her Majesty's Inspectors in testing the efficiency of such schools. The Education Committee of Council observe that the standard of instruction fixed by these rules is very low, and can be accepted only as a

starting-point for future improvement. The object of the recognition of this new class of schools is to secure for children who do not attend public elementary schools such instruction in the first four standards of the Code as will qualify them to obtain certificates of proficiency enabling them to go to work. The general instruction of infants (from five to seven) will be tested by the standard of instruction used in public elementary schools. As regards the elder children, 50 per cent. of the number in average attendance during the previous year will be individually examined in reading, writing, and elementary arithmetic; those from seven to eight years old in Standard I. of the Code of 1870; those from eight to ten in Standard I. of the Code of 1877; and those above ten in Standard II. (or a higher) of the Code of 1877. The girls are to be taught plain needlework. Teachers are not to act as managers of, or correspondents for, the schools in which they are employed. The department expressly reserves the power to require a higher standard of instruction from time to time. A certificate of efficiency, though it will enable a school to qualify a child to be employed, will, of course, give no claim to an annual public grant. No grant is made except to schools conducted as public elementary schools within the meaning of the Education Act of 1870.

Ragged School Union.

Meetings of Committee were held during the last quarter on—

Monday, January 8,
Friday, „ 12,
Monday, February 4,
Friday, „ 9,
Monday, March 4,
Friday, „ 9.

Subscriptions and Donations received during the three months amounted to	£755	16	10
Dividends	80	2	8
Sales, &c.	30	4	11
Legacies	110	0	0
	976	4	5
The grants and other payments during the same period amounted to	750	1	2

Applications for aid were received from schools in—

Chatham Gardens.	Love Lane.	Motley Street.
Charles Square.	Beaumont Place.	Snowsfields.
Charterhouse Street.	Old Castle Street.	Clapham.
Camden Town.	West Greenwich.	Bedfordbury.
Ogle Mews.	Fieldgate Street.	Fox Court.
Nichol Street.	Golden Lane.	Britannia Street.
London Street.	Buross Street.	Drury Lane.
Walthamstow.	Horseferry Road.	Parker Street.
Chequer Alley.	Price's Street.	George Street.

At the meeting in March it was reported that Mr. W. D. Griffith, who for nine years had been a member of the Committee, had, after a very short illness, died on Tuesday, February 20, 1877. The Committee immediately entered a minute on the Society's records, a copy of which will be found on page 71.

At the February Meeting a conference was held with Thomas Scrutton, Esq., the Chairman of the Industrial Schools Department of the School Board for London, on the subject of Day Industrial Schools. Reference was made to the powers given to School Boards under the Education Act, 1876, so far as regards wastrel children.

Section 11 deals with non-attendance at school.

,, 12. Disobedience to attendance orders.

,, 13. The persons who may inform the School Board of truants, &c.

,, 14. Power to license out after detention in Industrial school for one month.

,, 15. Power to spread payments over 50 years as regards establishing or building schools.

,, 16. Day Industrial Schools.

,, 17. Conditions (partial) of contributions to Day Industrial Schools.

,, 50. Construction of the Act, with other Enactments.

Section 16

Refers to the establishment of Day Industrial Schools—1st, by a School Board; 2nd, by voluntary agency. In either case the consent of a Secretary of State is necessary.

A Magistrate may send a child to a Certified Day Industrial School instead of an Industrial School, should he see fit, even although such child may be charged under the Industrial Schools Act. Parliament may contribute up to 1s. a week for a child so sent.

When a child is so sent the Magistrate may order the parent to pay a sum not exceeding 2s. a week.

The sum so assessed to be collected by the School Board, and used by them to meet their expenses under this Act.

The parent, if unable to pay the amount assessed, is to apply to the Guardians, who, if satisfied of the inability of the parent to pay, may give to the parent so much thereof as they may consider him unable to pay.

A School Board has the same powers with regard to a Certified Day Industrial School as they have with regard to a Certified Industrial School.

The Managers of a Certified Day Industrial School may, at the request of the School Board *and* the parent, the latter undertaking to pay the Managers not less than 1s. a week, as a Secretary of State fixes, receive such child under an Attendance Order, or without such order; and Parliament may pay up to 6d. a week for such child, on conditions to be fixed by a Secretary of State.

An Order in Council may make regulations.

It was agreed further to consider the subject when the Order in Council is published specifying the regulations for the establishment, management, and maintenance of the proposed Day Industrial Schools.

Notices of Meetings.

AN EVENING WITH TAVERN WAITERS.

In the middle of February last, a meeting of over 200 waiters in the public-houses and taverns in the City were entertained at a social gathering in the premises of the People's Café Company in St. Paul's Churchyard. After tea the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair amid the long-continued applause of the waiters present. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Parker, the City Taverns Missionary, also by Mr. Denny, who provided the entertainment, followed by Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Smithies, and Mr. C. Brown, M.P. On a vote of thanks to the chair the Earl of Shaftesbury cordially thanked the various speakers for their kindly expressions towards him, and said that through the blessing of God he had been enabled in the past to take an active part in various movements which had for their object the social, moral, and religious improvement of the working classes, and he trusted that, through the same Divine blessing, he should be found to his last hour discharging his duties to the honour of God, and for the benefit of his fellow-men. He had come in con-

tact with many waiters at home and abroad, and had always found them courteous, civil, attentive, and kind. His lordship proceeded to relate an anecdote of a waiter whom he met at an hotel where he happened to stop, and who addressed the noble earl by name. On being asked how he came to know him, the waiter replied, "*Ten years ago, my lord, when I was a Ragged School boy, I went to Exeter Hall to receive a prize from your hands. I have it still, and shall never forget the occasion as long as I live.*" (Cheers.) His lordship went on to say that he appreciated the important duties that waiters, generally speaking, discharged so well, and sympathised with their sufferings from insolent and intemperate customers. He considered that a vast improvement had taken place amongst them as a class, but he reminded those who were present that, as City waiters, they enjoyed greater privileges in having a Sunday rest, and in early closing, than their fellows in other parts of the metropolis. These were blessings which he would like to see extended to every class of the working population. The opposition was, however, obstinate and prolonged, but he believed that if this country was to maintain her present position, the principle of early closing would eventually have to be conceded.

The meeting was then brought to a close with singing and prayer.

A SHOEBLACKS' "TREAT."

It is not generally known that some sixty lads, forming the north-west branch of the Shoeblack Brigade, are comfortably housed in the premises in Marylebone Road, under the care of Mr. Thomas Scarfe. On Tuesday evening last the greater number of these were found in the full enjoyment of a bounteous tea, provided for them in their large room, which was gaily decorated with mottoes, texts, floral wreaths, &c. After tea some kindly words were addressed to the boys by George Hanbury, Esq., and the hon. secretary of the institution, Mr. C. Birch, the latter gentleman having the the pleasure of handing a goodly number of prizes, consisting of books and framed texts, to those lads who it was understood had proved themselves "the best" by their regular attendance at Sunday School and general good conduct. To one was given "a hundred thousand pounds"—at least, such was the title of his prize. "Another old sailor's yarn" fell to the lot of a lad who takes pleasure in reading to his companions. Some of the prize-takers are lads earning a livelihood and good name in situations. Mr. Scudamore, of the Reformatory and Refuge Union, afterwards exhibited his magic lantern, and as the disc of light fell on the sheet there was little need for the command, "eyes front." At the close of this exhibition repeated cheers were spontaneously given for the lady who had kindly played the piano during the evening, and for Messrs. Hanbury, Scudamore, Pearce, Scarfe, and other friends. A visit to the comfortable bedroom (where the boys were listening to words of Christian counsel previous to retiring for the night) served to confirm the impression that the boys' interests are lovingly and well cared for, while the good feeling with which they regard those placed over them was evident throughout the evening.

A RAGGED SCHOOL IN THE HALL OF GRAY'S INN.

A meeting of an interesting character took place on February 14, in the ancient and noble hall of the Hon. Society of Gray's Inn, the Benchers having very kindly placed it at the disposal of the committee of the Fox Court Ragged Schools for the purpose of entertaining the parents of the children, who, to the number of three hundred, sat down to a bountifully supplied "meat tea," to which ample justice was done. Meanwhile they were greatly pleased with the performances of the Holdfast Handbell Ringers, who rang out merry peals at intervals during the meal. At eight o'clock the chair was taken by the president of the schools, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., who was supported by Alderman Sir Robert W. Carden, Mr. S. S. Wigg and Mr. T. D. Bayly, benchers; the Rev. Alexander Taylor, chaplain of the Inn, and others. The hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell," having been sung, in which all heartily joined, the Rev. R. Handcock offered prayer. Then followed a full programme, comprising addresses interspersed with the music of the "bells," singing, by a choir of young people attending the schools, songs and recitations by members of the handbell ringers, and the anthem, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," by Miss E. Risley. The audience listened with much pleasure to a humorous speech by Sir Robert W. Carden, and with great attention to practical addresses from the rev. chaplain of the Inn, the Rev. H. E. Stone, and the Rev. Robert Handcock. A vote of thanks to the Benchers, the noble President, and others who had taken part in the proceedings, was proposed by Dr. Pigott, seconded by Mr. Thomas Fagg, and put to the meeting by Mr. Elcum, after which an appropriate address by the noble chairman brought a very pleasant evening to a close. The National Anthem having been sung, the people repaired to their homes, well pleased with their entertainment.

OGLE MEWS.

The thirty-third annual meeting of the Ogle Mews Ragged Schools was held at the schools, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presiding. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

The secretary read the annual report. This stated that during the year they had been enabled to make alteration in the buildings, and to purchase new and improved school furniture. These had been approved by the Government Inspector. Children were admitted to the schools from infancy up to ten years of age, at which period it had hitherto been found necessary to relinquish the work of the secular teaching in the Day Schools. With a view to assist the boys over thirteen years of age, a Working Lads' Institute had been formed, and promised to be highly satisfactory, the aim being to take those youths off the streets after the day's work was done, providing them with reasonable amusement and instruction. The average attendances at the week-day schools were — boys 58, girls 65.

The Rev. C. J. P. Eyre, M.A., moved the adoption of the report. As rector of the parish, he wished to tender to Sir Robert Carden his

cordial thanks for the noble and enduring battle he had fought in support of that institution. He (the speaker) knew the difficulties of the struggle which Sir Robert Carden had had to maintain; he was fully conscious of the kind of opposition he would have to meet. And, though it had not fallen to his (the speaker's) own lot to stand by Sir Robert's side, he would yet assure him that he had followed his whole struggle with deep sympathy and earnest prayers for his success. He hoped God's blessing would rest upon the conduct of the institution. He was struck by the marvellous comprehensiveness of the institution. They began with infants, and went up to their literary society, and to the Night Schools for those who had left the tuition of the day. They were certainly doing more than many of the clergy were with the national schools.

Mr. Sheriff Hadley seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Canon Reeve, M.A., incumbent of Portman Chapel, proposed, "That in view of sustaining the various operations in connection with the work of the school, and the consequent increase of expenditure, the committee appeal especially for additional annual subscriptions." The thing of all others which had pleased him was the confession which appeared from one of the passages appearing on the walls of the school, "Looking unto Jesus." It was a matter of great thankfulness that the Lord had lifted the members out of the mire, and had led them with a fidelity greater than that of any friend or brother. One of the great advantages in an institution like that one was the sympathy which it awakened in the hearts of other people; and he hoped that one result of that meeting would be the increase of the annual subscriptions. As example was better than precept, he himself would be happy to become an annual subscriber to the Ogle Mews Ragged Schools. With regard to the teachers, he trusted that all those who put their shoulders to the wheel of teaching would always look for aid to Him who had said "Suffer little children to come unto Me." The proposition was seconded by Mr. T. A. Denny, and supported by the Rev. Nevill Sherbrooke, curate of Portman Chapel, both of whom also signified their intention of becoming yearly subscribers. This resolution having been adopted, a hymn was sung, and a collection made.

The Rev. W. Heaton, B.A., then moved, "That the continued blessing of Almighty God, vouchsafed in the past year by the generous support and sympathy of friends to the schools, demands a public expression of thanks for the same, and of confidence for the future welfare of the work." This was seconded by Mr. Bennet and carried. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Lord Mayor for presiding, Alderman Sir Robert Carden proposing, and Mr. Sheriff East seconding it. The Lord Mayor acknowledged the vote, and the meeting then ended. The total sum collected during the proceedings was £53 1s. 2½d.